

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant cancels Claims 1-3, 5, and 7. Therefore, Claims 4, 6, and 8 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA"), in view of Leibowitz, U.S. Patent No. 4,660,164 ("Leibowitz") and Ichiro. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over AAPA, in view of Leibowitz, Ichiro, and Flockencier, U.S. Patent No. 5,511,015 ("Flockencier").

As noted above, with this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-3, 5, and 7.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 4, 6, and 8 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

With this Amendment, Applicant amends each of Claims 4, 6, and 8 into independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/991,697

Q67414

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 1-3, 7, 8, and 11 with the attached, replacement figures.

Six (6) sheets of figures

Attachment: Replacement Sheets